

MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting  
March 18, 2004

6:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:02 p.m., Thursday, March 18, 2004, in the East Room, York Hall, by Chairman Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zarembo, Sheila S. Noll, Kenneth L. Bowman, James S. Burgett, and Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Also in attendance were James O. McReynolds, County Administrator; J. Mark Carter, Assistant County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

**WORK SESSION**

**PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2005 BUDGET**

Chairman Shepperd indicated the purpose of the work session was to review the proposed alternatives as prepared by staff providing for a 4-cent or a 7-cent reduction in the real estate tax rate.

Mr. McReynolds began by reviewing the budget calendar for the budget process that began last June when the staff was requested to submit its requests for new personnel and programs for FY2005. He then distributed to and reviewed with the Board members information that presented a slightly different way of looking at the proposed FY2005 budget that would give the Board a better understanding of how staff got from the approved FY2004 budget of \$86,309,000 to the proposed FY2005 \$97,004,000. Mr. McReynolds next reviewed more detail on the unfunded mandates in terms of new personnel, new equipment, known state funding cuts for FY2005, and the rules and regulations driving these requirements.

Discussion followed regarding new Public Safety positions and other unfunded mandates.

Mrs. Marycarol White, Director of Financial and Management Services, reviewed each of the alternatives as follows, noting that each penny is worth \$530,000:

**Alternative A1—4 Cent Reduction**

Possible reductions to proposed budget:

Unallocated revenue	\$ 510,000
Reduction in transfers to schools	
Operations	584,000
Capital/Debt Service	100,000
New Personnel (non-mandated)	
(except dispatchers & grounds maintenance)	170,000
New equipment requests	136,000
Scheduled software upgrade	100,000
Custodial services	75,000
Reduce CIP (projects to be determined)	265,000
Reduce GF contribution to Solid Waste	50,000
Reduce Contingency	100,000
General Price Increase	50,000
	<u>\$2,140,000</u>

**Alternative A2—4 Cent Reduction**

Unallocated revenue	\$ 510,000
Reduction in transfers to schools	
Operations	584,000
Capital/Debt Service	100,000
New Personnel (non-mandated)	
(except dispatchers & grounds maintenance)	170,000
Reduce CIP (projects to be determined)	225,000
New equipment requests	100,000
Scheduled software upgrade	100,000
Decrease GF contribution to Solid Waste	100,000
Custodial Services	75,000
Reduce Contingency	101,000
Reduction in general price increase	
(across the board)	<u>75,000</u>
	<u>\$2,140,000</u>

Alternative A3—4-Cent Reduction

Unallocated revenue	\$ 510,000
Reduction in transfers to schools	
Operations	584,000
Capital/Debt Service	100,000
New personnel (non-mandated except dispatchers)	387,000
Scheduled software upgrade	100,000
Decrease GF contribution to Solid Waste	100,000
Airport Support	30,500
Custodial Services	75,000
Delay Capital Projects	
GS-8600	60,000
GS-8601	62,000
Library Needs Assessment	30,000
Reduce Contingency	100,000
General price increase	<u>1,500</u>
	<u>\$2,140,000</u>

Alternative B1—7-Cent Reduction

4-Cent Reduction	\$2,140,000
Plus the following additional reductions:	
Schools' share of 7-cent reduction	684,000
2% Market Increase	600,000
Contributions to Williamsburg & Newport News	
Libraries	274,000
Other contributions to outside agencies	<u>32,000</u>
7-Cent Reduction	<u>\$3,730,000</u>

Alternative B2—7-Cent Reduction

4-Cent Reduction	\$2,140,000
Plus the following additional reductions:	
Schools' share of 7-cent reduction	684,000
Eliminate contributions to outside agencies (p. 101)	205,000
Eliminate contributions to outside agencies (p. 84)	90,000
Eliminate DARE Program	127,000
Landscaping	184,000
Reduce contribution to Economic Development Fund	150,000
Decrease Market Increase by ½%	<u>150,000</u>
7-Cent Reduction	<u>\$3,730,000</u>

Alternative B3—7-Cent Reduction

4-Cent Reduction	\$2,140,000
Plus the following additional reductions:	
Schools' share of 7-cent reduction	684,000
Reduce non-mandated local funding to Sheriff	621,000
Reduce non-mandated local funding to Comm. Atty.	50,000
Reduce non-mandated local funding to Clerk of Court	51,000
Reduce non-mandated local funding to Comm. Of the Rev.	89,000
Reduce non-mandated local funding to Treasurer	<u>95,000</u>

7-Cent Reduction \$3,730,000

Mr. McReynolds noted that the \$75,000 for custodial services was in error and could be removed and the funds added to the \$510,000 unallocated revenue.

Chairman Shepperd then asked the Board to discuss the 4-cent proposals. He stated he was interested in the Board members' perspectives and their questions for staff on the items contained in the proposals.

Mr. Burgett suggested that the Board eliminate the Real Estate Assessor's Office and move it back under the purview of the Commissioner of the Revenue. He noted there will still need to be a new property assessor and someone to maintain the database, and firms can be hired to do the biannual assessments. For the money the County will pay for the assessments, it will provide the Board with monthly reports on trends on where values are going. Mr. Burgett stated he felt the County could save \$200,000 to \$300,000 a year. He stated he was disappointed in the customer service for this office and the quality of the reassessments.

Mrs. Noll stated the suggestion took her by surprise, and she suggested that a study be done to look at the efficiency of the office and the ramifications of what it would mean to the County and its citizens.

Chairman Shepperd stated it was a consideration, and he asked Mr. McReynolds to begin an assessment of Mr. Burgett's proposal and have it as an option to discuss at the next work session.

Mr. Zaremba next presented his proposals for a tax reduction as follows:

Option A4—Proposed budget reductions for a 4-cent reduction in the tax rate:

Proposed Reduction in Budget	\$2,140,000
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Possible reductions to Proposed Budget:

Unallocated revenues	510,000
Reduction in transfers to schools	1,368,000
.5% decrease in 2% raise to County Employees	150,000
Reduce Contingency	100,000
General Price Increase	50,000

Total of These Reductions:	\$2,178,000
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Option B4—Proposed budget reductions for a 7-cent reduction in the tax rate

Proposed Reduction in Budget	\$3,730,000
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4-Cent Reduction	\$2,178,000
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Additional possible reductions to proposed budget:

Eliminate 2% market increase to County Employees	450,000
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Reduce GF contribution to Solid Waste	100,000
Reduce CIP	265,000
Eliminate economic Development 50915-9726	250,000
Eliminate request for non-mandated new Personnel	387,000
Eliminate request for new equipment	136,000

Total of These Reductions: \$3,766,000

Discussion followed regarding all proposals to reduce the tax rate. At this time, the majority of the Board agreed to remove the following reductions from consideration:

Contingency	\$ 100,000
Airport Support	30,500
2% Market Increase	600,000
Contributions to Williamsburg & Newport News Libraries	274,000
Contributions to outside agencies	295,000
DARE Program	127,000
Landscaping	184,000
Economic Development Fund	150,000
New Equipment	136,000

Chairman Shepperd asked the Board members to review what has been discussed this evening and come to the April 1 work session with their further recommendations to obtain a 4-cent reduction, as well as hold further discussion on the possibility of some reduction to the Constitutional Officers' budgets in order to entertain a larger reduction than 4 cents. He also noted that the County Administrator would be prepared to answer questions raised concerning the Solid Waste Fund and the current version of operating software used by the County, and he would provide the Board with specific recommendations for reductions in the Capital Improvements Program and an assessment of Mr. Burgett's proposal to eliminate the Real Estate Assessment Office.

Meeting Adjourned. At 9:39 p.m. Chairman Shepperd declared the meeting be adjourned to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 23, 2004, in the East Room, York Hall, for the purpose of conducting a work session on the proposed Fiscal Year 2005 Budget.

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James O. McReynolds, Clerk  
York County Board of Supervisors

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Thomas G. Shepperd, Chairman  
York County Board of Supervisors